WOLSTANTON
UNITED URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

REPORT
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1917.

W. E. L. HORNER, M.D.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Wolstanton Education Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Fourteenth Annual Report on the sanitary condition of the United Urban District of Wolstanton, with the vital statistics for the year 1917.

On account of the large number of Medical Officers of Health who have gone on War Service, and having regard to the still further necessity for strict economy in the use of paper, and the difficulties of printing, the Local Government Board have directed, that as for last year, interim reports only should be made for the year 1917, these reports being confined to essential and urgent matters which have effected the public health during the year.

My report, this year is therefore conducted on these lines, and a large amount of matter, together with most of the tables of comparison with previous years are omitted.

POPULATION.

Two estimates of the population of this District for 1917 have been supplied from the General Register Office, Somerset House, London. One of these, viz. 27704, is an estimate of the civilian population, and is used in calculating the death-rate for the year ; and the other, viz. 30882, is an estimate of the total population based on the assumption that the ratio between total and civilian population is the same in this District as in England and Wales as a whole, and is used in calculating the birth-rate.

The population of the different portions of the District may be taken as follows:—

Wolstanton	... 12556	... 14882
Silverdale	... 7913	... 8200
Chesterton	... 7235	... 7800
	27704	30882

NUMBER OF HOUSES IN THE DISTRICT.

No new houses have been built in the District during the past two years.

The number of houses in the District may therefore be taken to be the same as in 1915, viz. 6237.

Number of persons per house 4.7.

These are divided as follows:—

Wolstanton	3039	No. of persons per house	4.6
Silverdale	1744	,, ,,	4.4
Chesterton	1454	,, ,,	5.1

BIRTHS.

The total number of births registered in the District during the year was 553, including 288 boys and 265 girls, equal to an annual birth-rate of 17.9 per thousand of the estimated population of the District.

Of these births, there were 212 in Wolstanton; 172 in Silverdale; and 169 in Chesterton; the birth-rates for the three portions of the District being respectively, Wolstanton 14.2; Silverdale 20.9; and Chesterton 21.6.

The birth-rate of the whole District, shows a further decline this year, being 3.5 less than last year which was previously much the lowest on record.

Taking the three portions of the District separately, the greatest decline is shown in Wolstanton, which is 5.8 less than last year. The birth-rate for Silverdale is 2.9 less than last year, while that of Chesterton is 0.1 higher.

18 of these births were illegitimate, including 10 boys and 8 girls. Last year there were 29 illegitimate births, and during the two preceding years 21 and 32 respectively.

For the whole of England and Wales, the annual birth-rate for 1917 was 17.8.

Table of Births and Deaths for 1917.

Month	BIRTHS					DEATHS				
	Whole district	Rate per 1000	Wolstanton	Silverdale	Chesterton	Whole district	Rate per 1000	Wolstanton	Silverdale	Chesterton
January ...	57	22·1	20	21	16	41	17·7	15	13	13
February ...	47	18·2	25	11	11	37	16·02	15	16	6
March ...	44	17·08	19	16	9	38	16·4	17	14	7
April ...	39	15·1	13	11	15	31	13·4	14	9	8
May ...	48	18·6	18	15	15	27	11·6	9	11	7
June ...	57	22·1	20	16	21	29	12·5	11	11	7
July ...	45	17·4	20	13	12	27	11·6	11	10	6
August ...	48	18·6	14	14	20	13	5·6	5	3	5
September ...	46	17·8	17	17	12	9	3·8	6	1	2
October ...	51	19·8	15	20	16	22	9·5	11	8	3
November ...	31	12·03	16	7	8	22	9·5	12	5	5
December ...	40	15·5	15	11	14	23	9·9	8	8	7
Total ...	553	17·9	212	172	169	319	11·5	134	109	76

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths registered in the District during the year was 287 (Males 146, Females 141). This gives an annual death-rate of 10.3 per thousand of the estimated population of the District.

In addition there were 46 deaths of "residents" occurring outside the District, divided as follows:—

North Staffordshire Infirmary	...	...	17
Chell Union Infirmary	...	...	19
Cheddleton Asylum	...	...	4
Various other places	...	...	6
			46

14 deaths were registered in the District during the year, of "non-residents" living outside the District.

The corrected number of deaths is therefore 319 (Males 169, Females 150), giving an annual death-rate of 11.5 per thousand of the estimated population of the District.

Last year the total number of deaths was 372, and the death-rate 13.8.

Of these deaths, there were 134 in Wolstanton; 109 in Silverdale; and 76 in Chesterton; giving annual death-rates respectively of Wolstanton 10.6; Silverdale 13.7; and Chesterton 10.5.

Compared with last year, the death-rate for the whole District is 2.3 per thousand lower. In the different portions of the District, the death-rate of Wolstanton is 2.1 lower; of Silverdale 0.6 higher; and of Chesterton 6.3 lower. In both the Wolstanton and Chesterton Districts, this is the lowest death-rate recorded in the past years.

For the whole of England and Wales, the death-rate for 1917 was 14.4.

The following table shows the causes of death during the year, and has been supplied from Somerset House:—

Cause of Death	Males	Females
Enteric Fever	1	...
Measles	2	2
Whooping Cough	1	1
Diphtheria and Croup	1	2
Influenza	1	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	13
Tuberculous Meningitis	4	1
Other Tuberculous diseases	3	3
Cancer	8	15
Rheumatic Fever	...	1
Meningitis	1	2
Organic heart disease	8	22
Bronchitis	23	12
Pneumonia	24	8
Other respiratory diseases	1	...
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1	3
Appendicitis	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...
Nephritis and Bright's disease	3	4
Puerperal Fever	...	1
Parturition	..	3
Congenital Debility, &c.	15	12
Violence (apart from suicide)	11	3
Suicide	3	1
Other defined diseases	50	40
Total	169	150

DEATHS NOT CERTIFIED BY A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

Inquests were held during the year on 16 persons, (Males 14, Females 2) the verdicts being Natural causes in 8 cases, Suicide in 3 cases, and Accidental Death in 5 cases.

Besides the above, 12 inquests were held on "residents" whose deaths occurred outside the District (Males 9, Females 3), the verdicts being Natural causes in 3 cases, Accidental Death in 8 cases, and Suicide in 1 case.

There were also 2 inquests held in the District during the year on "non-residents," whose deaths occurred in the District, both being due to accidents,

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

There were 5 uncertified deaths during the year, on which no inquests were held (Males 3, Females 2), all being due to natural causes.

The total number of uncertified deaths is therefore 33 out of the 319 during the year, equal to

Inquests	...	... 8.7 per cent.
Uncertified deaths	...	... 1.5 ,,

For all England and Wales, the corresponding figures for 1917 are:—

Inquests	...	... 7.0 per cent.
Uncertified deaths	...	... 1.5 ,,

INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of deaths registered in 1917 under 1 year of age was 59 (Boys 37, Girls 22), equal to a mortality of 106 per thousand registered births.

This is not so good as last year, in which the Infant mortality was 86, being the lowest on record.

29 of these deaths were in Wolstanton; 20 in Silverdale; and 10 in Chesterton, giving a mortality per thousand births, respectively, of Wolstanton 141; Silverdale 116; and Chesterton 59.

For Wolstanton this is much the highest figure, and for Chesterton much the lowest figure recorded in any year since the formation of the Urban Council. Hitherto, Chesterton has usually had the highest Infant mortality of the three portions of the District.

For all England and Wales, the Infant mortality for 1917 was 97.

Among the 59 infants who died in the District during the year, 26 were breast-fed, 24 were hand-fed, 3 were both breast and hand-fed, and 6 dying within 3 days of birth were too young to have either system established.

The following table gives these facts in detail, together with the causes of death:—

Cause of Death	Breast Fed	Mixed	Hand Fed	Too Young	Total
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	12	1	3	...	16
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	1	...	2	...	3
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	4	2	5	...	11
Premature Birth	4	...	7	3	14
Convulsions	1	...	2	1	4
Tuberculous Diseases	1	...	3	...	4
Measles	...	...	1	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	1	..	1
All other causes	3	...	...	2	5
Total	26	3	24	6	59

3 of the children were born outside the District.

2 of the deaths were of illegitimate children, both of these being hand-fed. This is less than the last three years in each of which there have been 5 deaths of illegitimate infants.

The general condition of the 57 houses in which these deaths occurred was noted as follows:—

Good	43
Fairly good	8
Fair	4
Poor	2
	57

The occupations of the mothers before the births was as follows:—

No occupation	7
Domestic servants	19
Pottery Workers	13
Brick and Tile Works...	4
Velvet Factory	6
Cotton Factory	6
Shop Assistant	1
Laundry	1
	57

HEALTH VISITOR'S REPORT.

Gentlemen,

During the year, 538 births were notified from 529 houses, there being 7 cases of twins, and 1 of triplets. Of these houses there were 206 in Wolstanton, 172 in Silverdale, and 172 in Chesterton, and I have visited 516. The remaining 13 had a monthly Nurse in attendance, and no visits were paid.

In addition to the primary visits, 2949 return visits were made (1128 in Wolstanton, 993 in Silverdale, and 828 in Chesterton), in order to note the progress of the babies, and where necessary to give further advice and practical help, making a total number of 3465 visits.

Among the births notified during the year there were 277 boys and 261 girls.

Of these, 25 were stillborn, and 20 died before any regular method of feeding was adopted.

Among the remainder of those visited, 374 were entirely breast-fed, 68 were entirely bottle-fed, and 16 partly breast, and partly bottle-fed.

In the majority of cases among the bottle-fed babies, the hygienic tubeless bottle is used.

The mothers of 12 babies returned to work at the end of the first month, after placing their babies out to nurse.

58 visits were made to houses where deaths had occurred under 1 year of age.

I have paid 750 visits to cases of Tuberculosis, of which 418 were in Wolstanton, 178 in Silverdale, and 154 in Chesterton. All of these cases are under medical supervision.

21 visits were made to Dressmakers' and Milliners' workrooms. No defects were found.

10 of these were in Wolstanton, 7 in Silverdale, and 4 in Chesterton.

Under the Notification of Measles Regulations I have visited 312 houses. Of these 84 were in Wolstanton, 54 in Silverdale, and 174 in Chesterton. In addition to the primary visits 194 return visits were made.

I have also made 695 visits to the homes of children between 1 and 5 years (232 in Wolstanton, 227 in Silverdale, and 236 in Chesterton). The defects found were as follows:—

Ophthalmia	4
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids... ...	3
Rickets	1
Eczema	2
Cataract of Right Eye	1
Paralysis of Right Leg	1
	12

Of these, all the cases of Ophthalmia have been cured. The three cases of Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids have undergone operation. The two cases of Eczema are quite well, and the other cases are all having treatment at the North Staffordshire Infirmary.

The total number of home visits paid during the year is 5495.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. GATENBY.

It is hoped during the coming year to be able to establish Child Welfare and Maternity Centres in the District. Of these there would have to be three distinct Centres, one for each portion of the District, as no single site could be found convenient for all parts of the District, owing to the distance of the three towns from one another.

It is therefore proposed to engage another Nurse so that with the three Nurses then available, one of them could undertake the combined duties of Health Visitor and School Nurse in each of the three portions of the District.

Comparative Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality for 1917.

	Birth-rate per 1000 total Population	Annual Death-rate per 1000 Civilian Population.							Rate per 1000 Births	
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	17·8	14·4	0·03	0·00	0·30	0·02	0·13	0·13	12·18	97
90 Great Towns, including London (Population exceeding 50,000) ...	18·1	14·6	0·02	0·00	0·41	0·03	0·15	0·13	16·14	104
148 Smaller Towns ... ... Population 20,000—50,000 ...	18·0	13·2	0·03	0·00	0·30	0·02	0·15	0·13	10·08	93
London	17·5	15·0	0·02	0·00	0·48	0·02	0·13	0·14	18·70	103
Wolstanton	17·9	11·5	0·03	0·00	0·14	0·00	0·07	0·10	5·42	106

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT.

450 cases have been notified during the year, including the following:—

Scarlet Fever	38
Diphtheria	32
Enteric Fever	2
Erysipelas	8
Puerperal Fever	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	27
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1
Measles and German Measles	333
	450

This is much less than last year in which 690 cases were notified, and with the exception of Measles the number of cases of all infectious diseases has been unusually small this year.

SMALL-POX.

No cases of Small-pox have occurred in the District during the year.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER.

2 cases have been notified during the year, of which 1 was in Wolstanton, and 1 in Chesterton.

Both of these cases were removed to the North Staffordshire Infirmary, and one died.

This gives a death-rate per thousand living of 0.03.

SCARLET FEVER.

38 cases were notified during the year, of which 18 were in Wolstanton, 4 in Silverdale, and 16 in Chesterton.

With the exception of one year (1909) in which 32 cases were notified, this is the smallest number of cases notified in any year during the past ten years. Last year 219 cases were notified.

29 cases,—76 per cent.—were removed to the Bradwell Isolation Hospital.

There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever during the year, either in the District, or at the Bradwell Hospital among cases from outside the District.

32 houses were infected.

DIPHTHERIA.

32 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, of which 22 were in Wolstanton, 3 in Silverdale, and 7 in Chesterton.

This is slightly higher than last year, in which 30 cases were notified, though less than the average for the last ten years.

Among these cases there were 3 deaths, giving a case mortality of 9.3 per cent. and a death-rate per thousand living of 0.10.

24 cases,—75 per cent.—were removed to the Bradwell Isolation Hospital.

In addition there were 10 deaths from Diphtheria at the Bradwell Isolation Hospital among cases sent in from outside the District, the majority of these being cases of a very severe hæmorrhagic type, and mang being admitted too late.

28 houses were infected.

MEASLES.

102 cases of Measles, and 231 cases of German Measles were notified during the year. As only one case is notified from each house, this number does not indicate the number of children affected.

The total number of children affected, as ascertained by the Health Visitor who visits these cases was 431.

At the end of last year the epidemic of Measles in Silverdale had practically ceased, while a few cases of German Measles were appearing in Wolstanton.

This developed during the first five months of this year into an epidemic of German Measles which affected all parts of the District, while during the latter 6 months of the year there has been an epidemic of Measles in Chesterton. These facts are shown more in detail in the table given below, giving the number of cases notified in each month during the year.

There were 4 deaths from Measles during the year, of which 3 were in Chesterton and 1 in Silverdale.

This gives a death-rate per thousand living of 0.14. Last year there were 13 deaths from Measles, giving a death-rate per thousand of 0.48.

Of the notifications received, 251 were notified by medical practitioners, and 82 by parents and guardians.

	Wolstanton		Silverdale		Chesterton	
	Measles	German Measles	Measles	German Measles	Measles	German Measles
January ...	1	7	1	...	2	...
February ...	...	11	1	...	...	13
March ...	...	41	1	10	...	6
April ...	...	28	...	17	...	20
May ...	...	13	...	18	3	16
June ...	...	2	...	3	3	6
July ...	...	3	...	...	19	4
August ...	...	...	3	...	15	...
September ...	...	4	...	...	10	3
October ...	...	2	...	...	17	1
November ...	...	1	...	...	22	2
December ...	...	...	...	...	5	...
Total ...	1	112	5	48	96	71

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

5 cases were notified during the year, of which 4 were in Wolstanton, and 1 in Silverdale.

Two of these have since died from other causes, and the remainder have recovered with perfect vision.

CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

There were 54 deaths under this head, including the following:—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	13	20
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	7	4	11
Cancer	8	15	23

Compared with last year there are 6 more deaths from Cancer, 4 less from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 1 more from other Tuberculous Diseases.

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1912.

36 cases of Tuberculosis have been notified during the year, distributed as follows:—

	Wolstanton	Silverdale	Chesterton	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	22	5	5	32
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	1	1	4
Total	24	6	6	36

Among these cases there were 19 Males and 17 Females.

These cases are visited by the Health Visitor every month, and particulars relating to them, including Housing and Sanitary conditions entered on printed forms and sent to the Tuberculosis Officer at Newcastle.

Leaflets are left at each house, containing precautions to be observed by persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

Among the cases notified this year there have been 7 deaths (Males 3, Females 4). 5 of these died from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 from other Tuberculous Diseases. Of the remainder 14 have had Sanatorium treatment, and of these 9 have returned to work. Two children have returned to school. Two of the cases have left the District, and the others are stationary.

Of the previously notified cases, remaining from last year, 24 are better, and following their employment, 8 are attending school, 6 are improved, 7 have left the District, 17 have died, and the remainder are in much the same state.

The total number of cases at present under observation is 97 (Males 49, Females 48). Of these there are 57 in Wolstanton, 23 in Silverdale and 17 in Chesterton.

The total number of deaths from Tuberculosis during the year was 31, giving a death-rate of 1.11 per thousand.

Last year the total death-rate from Tuberculosis was 1.26.

SANITARY WORK.

The District has been thoroughly and systematically inspected during the year, and altogether over 11000 visits have been made, including special visits to cow-sheds, slaughter-houses and workshops as enumerated below.

4 new connections have been made to the main sewer, and 217 yards of new drainage pipes have been laid during the year, viz.:—

175 yards of 4in. pipes.
42 yards of 6in. pipes.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 19 Slaughter-houses on the Register.

During the year 603 visits of inspection have been made, and the following defects found:—

2 requiring lime-washing.
4 accumulations of manure.
1 with broken floor.

All of these defects have been remedied.

One pig (112 lbs.), five livers and one barrel of Herrings, unfit for human food were surrendered and destroyed.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

There are at present on the Register 52 cowkeepers and 12 milk-sellers.

123 visits of inspection have been made during the year, and the following defects found:—

3 choked drains.

1 accumulation of manure.

All of these have been remedied.

No structural alterations have been carried out during the year, and several cowsheds have only been lime-washed once instead of twice, owing to shortage of labour.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The factories and workshops on the Register are the same as last year, viz., 6 factories and 88 workshops.

20 visits of inspection have been made to the factories during the year, and including those made by the Health Visitor, 84 to the workshops.

The only defect found was 4 defective water-closets in a factory. This has been remedied.

ASHPITS AND PRIVIES.

PRIVIES.—During the year, 44 privies have been converted into water-closets,—10 in Wolstanton, 13 in Silverdale, and 21 in Chesterton.

47 Rochdale Pans have been renewed.

ASHBINS.—43 galvanized iron ashbins have been provided during the year, in place of ashpits, 18 in Wolstanton, 13 in Silverdale, and 12 in Chesterton.

23 Ashbins have been renewed during the year.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND SCAVENGING.

Owing to the necessity for curtailing the Report, particulars in respect of the above are again omitted this year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. E. L. HORNER.

May 4th, 1918.

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department during the year 1917.

		Number of		Abatement Notices		Nuisances abated after notice by	
		Inspections and Observations made	Defects found	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority	Inspector	Authority
Dwelling-houses and Schools	Foul Conditions ...	14	14	14	...	14	...
	Structural Defects ...	21	21	21	...	21	...
	Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Unfit for Habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lodging-houses		...	...	...	...	...	...
Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds ...		123	4	4	...	4	...
Bakehouses		36	...	...	...	...	...
Slaughter-houses		603	7	7	...	7	...
Ash-pits and Privies		9865	188	183	5	176	2
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...		16	8	8	...	8	...
Water-closets		562	59	59	...	59	...
House Drainage	Defective Traps ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	No Disconnection ...	164	164	164	...	164	...
	Other Faults ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Water Supply		...	...	...	...	...	...
Pigsties		59	10	10	...	10	...
Animals improperly kept		...	...	...	...	...	...
Offensive Trades		27	...	...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances		...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances		8	4	4	...	4	...
Total		11498	479	474	5	467	2

4 lots of Infected Bedding have been destroyed.

71 Houses have been disinfected after Infectious Disease.

12 Houses have been disinfected after Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Wm. SIMCOCK.

May 4th, 1918.